REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 16 to 36; Claims 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and 36 are independent. Claims 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and 36 have been amended.

In the Official Action dated June 5, 2002, Claims 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,419 (Yaguchi), and Claims 17, 18, 20 to 22, 24, 25, 27 to 29, 31, 32 and 34 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Yaguchi '419 patent in view of U.S. patent No. 5,680,226 (Takayanagi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The present invention relates to a novel image processing apparatus and method. In one aspect, as recited in independent Claim 16, the present invention relates to an image processing apparatus comprising a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium having image data and sheet processing information stored therein, a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet in accordance with the image data stored in the detachable storage medium, and a controller that controls the printer so as to print an image on the recording medium based on objective image data stored in the detachable storage medium in accordance with the sheet processing information stored with the objective image data in the detachable storage medium loaded in the loading unit.

Independent Claims 23 and 30 recites similar features with respect to a method and a recording media, respectively.

Independent Claim 22 is directed to an image processing apparatus comprising a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium, having image data and sheet processing data indicating whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to be performed by the printer stored therein, a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet in accordance with image data, and a controller that controls the printer so as to print an image on the recording sheet in double-sided or single-sided printing based on objective image data stored in the detachable storage medium in accordance with the sheet processing information stored with the objective image data stored in the detachable storage medium loaded in the loading unit.

Independent Claims 29 and 36 recite similar features with respect to a method and a recording media, respectively.

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Yaguchi '419 patent relates to an image storing and retrieval apparatus that uses a mark sheet to facilitate the selection of images. However, Applicants submit that the Yaguchi '419 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above recited features of the present invention. Nowhere does the Yaguchi '419 patent disclose or suggest the use of sheet processing information stored in a detachable storage medium, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 16, 23, and 30). Nor does the Yaguchi '419 patent disclose or suggest the use of a detachable storage medium having stored therein

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information as to whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to be performed by a printer, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 22, 29, and 36). Specifically, Applicants submit Yaguchi fails to disclose or suggest the feature of "file data" including "image data and sheet processing information", as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Rather, Applicant submits the Yaguchi '419 patent discloses at Column 17, lines 17 to 27 that:

> "Various items are added to the data on the mark sheet stored in the *memory* [A506 through D509] including index cells, the check columns used to select the corresponding index cells, the marks **1105** and **1106** used to identify the mark sheet, the mark **1107** used to determine the direction of the mark sheet and the marks **1108** used to detect and correct the positional shift of the document which has occurred when the mark sheet is read in (Step 4). Thereafter, the data stored in the *memory* [A506 through D509] is transferred to the printer 2 by the aforementioned method (Step 5), whereby the mark sheet is output from the printer portion 2."

Thus, Applicant submits (1) that only image data ("index cell data") is read out from a detachable storage medium inserted into the external storage device 6, and stored in memories **A506** through **D509** (Step 3) (see Column 17, lines 7 to 11); (2) that "the format of the mark sheet . . . is read out from a ROM (not shown) under the instruction of the CPU 516, and the read format is stored in any of the memories **A506** through **D509** by bit mapping"; (3) that additional processing data (e.g., marks **1105** through **1108**) then is added to the data stored in memories **A506** through **D509**; and (4) that the mark sheet then is printed out based on the sheet processing data (format) thereby <u>added</u> to the image data originally stored in external storage device 6.

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Also, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the Yaguchi '419 patent fails to disclose or suggest storing specific sheet processing information such as sorting, stapling, number of copies, single- or double- sided, in a detachable storage medium.

The Takayanagi '226 patent relates to an image recording apparatus and was cited merely for its alleged disclosure of storing image sheet processing information with image data files stored in a hard disk. Applicants submit that the Takayanagi '226 patent fails to disclose or suggest the above-described features of the present invention. Nowhere is the Takayanagi '226 patent understood to disclose or suggest the features of a detachable storage medium, as disclosed and closed in the present application. Nor is the Takayanagi '226 patent understood to add anything to the Yaguchi '419 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and 36 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 17 to 21, 24 to 28, and 31 to 35 depend from the above-described independent claims, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective independent base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Finally, in formal matters, Applicants note that the present application is a Rule 53(b) Continuation of parent application no. 08/528,423. Certified copies of the foreign priority documents were submitted in the parent application. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the requirement for submitting certified copies of the foreign

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priority documents has been satisfied. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's request for further copies respectfully are requested.

Likewise, since the present application is a Continuation under Rule 53(b), copies of the information cited in the PTO Form-1449 submitted May 28, 1999, are of record in parent application no. 08/528,423, and are not required to be filed in the present application. Nevertheless, if the parent application is unavailable to the Examiner, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to provide copies of the foreign references for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants request that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicants submit that the present amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and reduce the number of issues for consideration. Applicants believe the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Official Action, and submit that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicants believe the prior claims are allowable.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

16.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet based on image data;

a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium, the detachable

storage medium having stored therein image data and sheet processing information; and

a controller that controls said printer [such that the] so as to print an image

[is printed] on the recording sheet based on objective image data stored in the detachable

storage medium in accordance with the sheet processing information stored with the

objective image data in the detachable storage medium loaded in said loading unit.

22.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet based on image data;

a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium, the detachable

storage medium having stored therein image data and sheet processing information

indicating whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to be performed; and

a controller that controls said printer so as to print an image on the

recording sheet in [such that] double-sided or single-sided printing [of the image is

performed] based on objective image data stored in the detachable storage medium in

accordance with the [stored] sheet processing information stored with the objective image

data in the detachable storage medium loaded in said loading unit.

23.   (Amended) A method for processing an image comprising the steps

of:

loading a detachable storage medium into a loading unit of an image

processing apparatus, the detachable storage medium having stored therein image data and

sheet processing information for processing a recording sheet;

printing an image on a recording sheet based on [the] image data stored in

the detachable storage medium loaded in the loading unit; and

controlling the printing so as to print an [such that the] image

[corresponding to the image data is printed] on the recording sheet based on objective

image data stored in the detachable storage medium in accordance with [the] sheet

processing information stored with the objective image data in the detachable storage

medium loaded in the loading unit.

29.   (Amended) A method for processing an image comprising the steps

of:

loading a detachable storage medium into a loading unit of an image

processing apparatus, the detachable storage medium having stored therein image data and

sheet processing information indicating whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to

be performed by the image processing apparatus;

printing an image on a recording sheet based on [the] image data stored in

the detachable storage medium; and

controlling the printing <u>so as to print an image on the recording sheet</u>

<u>in</u> [such that] double-sided or single-sided printing <u>based on objective image data stored in</u>

<u>the detachable storage medium</u> [of the image is performed] in accordance with the [stored]

sheet processing information <u>stored with the objective image data in the detachable storage</u>

<u>medium loaded in the loading unit</u>.

30.   (Amended) A recording media having recorded therein code for

executing the steps of:

reading image data and sheet processing information from a detachable

storage medium loaded into a loading unit of an image processing apparatus;

printing an image on a recording sheet based on [the] image data stored in

the detachable storage medium and read in the reading step; and

controlling the printing <u>so as to print an</u> [such that the] image <u>on the</u>

<u>recording sheet based on objective image data stored in the detachable storage medium</u> [is

printed] in accordance with the [stored] sheet processing information <u>stored with the</u>

<u>objective image data in the detachable storage medium loaded in the loading unit</u>.

36.   (Amended) A recording media having recorded therein code for

executing the steps of:

reading image data from a detachable storage medium loaded into a loading

unit of an image processing apparatus, the detachable storage medium having stored

therein image data and sheet processing information indicating whether double-sided or

single-sided printing is to be performed by the image processing apparatus;

printing an image on a recording sheet based on [the] image data stored in

the detachable storage medium; and

controlling the printing so as to print an image on the recording sheet

in [such that] double-sided or single-sided printing based on objective image data stored in

the detachable storage medium [of the image is performed] in accordance with the [stored]

sheet processing information stored with the objective image data in the detachable storage

medium loaded in the loading unit.

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